

House Resolution

No. 24

**Introduced by Assembly Members Nava, Blakeslee, Frommer,
Garcia, Shirley Horton, Houston, Laird, Mullin, Niello, Nunez,
Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Saldana, and Wyland**

September 7, 2005

House Resolution No. 24—Relative to Hurricane Katrina.

1 WHEREAS, The Assembly of the State of California
2 expresses its profound grief over the effects on the people of the
3 southern states following Hurricane Katrina and the flooding that
4 occurred during the week of August 29, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina created catastrophic damage
6 throughout the Gulf Coast States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
7 and Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, This disaster is expected to have displaced more
9 than one million residents and left millions of others without
10 power, water, food, or emergency supplies; and

11 WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina is expected to be the worst and
12 costliest natural disaster in United States history; and

13 WHEREAS, Rescue efforts in the Gulf Coast are continuing
14 and despite efforts by more than 58,000 active military and
15 National Guard troops—including a contingent of hundreds from
16 California, thousands of first responders, search and rescue
17 teams, humanitarian aid groups, and the United States Coast
18 Guard, which rescued 22,800 people, more than two times the
19 total number of people the Coast Guard rescued over the past 50
20 years—casualties in New Orleans are expected to be in the
21 thousands, and tens of thousands more residents remain stranded;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, California, through the Office of Emergency
2 Services (OES), has committed to provide assistance to the Gulf
3 State region in support of rescue and recovery efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature has urged its
5 members and staff to provide donations for disaster relief; and

6 WHEREAS, This great state has provided substantial
7 resources to assist local, state, and federal authorities in rescue
8 and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

9 WHEREAS, Californians are urged to help with the placement
10 of individuals displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
13 Office of Emergency Services conduct a review of its own
14 disaster preparedness and planning in the event of a natural
15 catastrophe, similar to the magnitude and destruction caused by
16 Hurricane Katrina, to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated
17 approach that will maintain predisaster and mitigation strategies
18 and effective planning, response and recovery; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Office of Emergency Services prepare a
20 report for the California State Legislature on the state of
21 California's disaster preparedness, including California's plans
22 for prevention, response, and recovery; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Franchise Tax Board evaluate the
24 possibility of offering tax credits to California families who take
25 in individuals displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina; and be
26 it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Office of Emergency Services coordinate
28 with the mayors of California's cities to house evacuees, as well
29 as coordinate efforts of municipalities to deliver food, water, and
30 medical supplies to the devastated states of the Gulf Coast as
31 needed, to ensure that adequate resources are reaching the proper
32 recipients; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Governor issue an Executive Order that
34 would allow state agencies and departments to assist in providing
35 for the care and sustainability of residents of Alabama, Florida,
36 Louisiana, and Mississippi who were displaced by Hurricane
37 Katrina; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That all California employers who employ people
39 with critical training who volunteer or whose technical skills are
40 necessary, including nurses, to respond during a disaster, be

1 encouraged to provide flexibility for these employees, and ensure
2 that their original employment positions remain without loss of
3 benefits or their jobs; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
5 copies of this resolution to the Governor and to the author for
6 appropriate distribution.

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